

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053936

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 281

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT - NEWSPAPERS AND WIRES, MONDAY,
MARCH 10

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 13

1. LATE AFTERNOON UPI FROM ANKARA SAID HAK ARRIVED ANKARA STATING HE REMAINED HOPEFUL SECOND-STAGE SINAI AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED AND THAT THERE WERE 'NO UNANTICIPATED PROBLEMS. WE NEED A TIME OF QUIET DIPLOMACY. YOU CAN EXPECT NO DAILY PROGRESS REPORT DURING THIS STAGE OF GENERAL EXPLORATION'. ON CYPRUS QUESTION, STORY SAID HAK HAS TWO AIMS IN ANKARA--AGREEMENT TO RESUME TALKS WITH GREECE, AND SELECTION OF SITE, WITH UN SUGGESTED AS POSSIBILITY. TURKISH NEWSPAPERS DESCRIBED AS TAKING LINE THAT THERE SHOULD BE 'NO CONCESSIONS TO KISSINGER' AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN QUOTED AS SAYING THERE IS 'NO OTHER SOLUTION BUT A BI-REGIONAL FEDERATION.'

2. AP'S SCHWEID FROM ANKARA SAID HAK TOLD NEWSMEN ON ARRIVAL HE HAD 'NO REASON' TO CHANGE HIS VIEW THAT SINAI
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PAGE 02 STATE 053936

ACCORD IS POSSIBLE. CONCERNING CYPRUS, SCHWEID SAID NEWS-

MEN ON PLANE WERE TOLD HAK IS WORKING ON NEW 'FORUM' FOR RESUMED TALKS TO BE SET UP IN NEW YORK OR VIENNA. HE SAID

HAK HOPES BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITIES BY INTERCESSION WITH GREEK AND TURKISH LEADERS. SCHWEID ADDED THAT HAK'S 'BUSY DIPLOMACY' MAY SERVE AS SIGNAL TO CONGRESS THAT ANKARA IS MOVING TOWARD COMPROMISE AND THAT REMOVAL OF ARMS EMBARGO WOULD PAVE WAY TO RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS. SCHWEID SAID 'U.S. OFFICIALS NOW CLAIM FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS THE VOTES IN THE SENATE TO RESUME WEAPONS SHIPMENTS BUT THAT THE HOUSE IS QUESTIONABLE'.

3. EARLIER UPI FROM JERUSALEM SAID HAK TOOK HELICOPTER FROM JERUSALEM TO BEN GURION AIRPORT BECAUSE OF RUMORS OF ARAB GUERRILLA ATTACK ON SCHOOLHOUSE IN TOWN OF YEHUD NEAR AIRPORT. REPORT TURNED OUT TO BE FALSE ALARM, SAID UPI.

4. LA TIMES, PAGE ONE, RESTON, JERUSALEM: ASSAD REFUSED TO SUPPORT HAK'S DIP ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATE PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

HIS PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION OF SYRIA'S HARD-LINE POSITION, MADE BEFORE START OF TALKS WITH HAK IN DAMASCUS, UNDERSCORED BOTH COMPLEXITY AND DIFFICULTY OF HAK'S CURRENT ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY.

...'WE ARE AGAINST SEPARATE PARTIAL AGREEMENTS,' ASSAD TOLD REPORTERS TRAVELING WITH HAK. HE SAID SYRIA WOULD AGREE TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT ONLY IF IT PROVIDED FOR ALL FRONTS, MEANING ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND ALONG THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER.

ASSAD EMPHASIZED THE UN RESOLUTION THAT CALLS FOR ISRAEL'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL TO BOUNDARIES HELD BEFORE THE 1967 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR.

...ASKED ABOUT HIS RECENT OFFER TO UNIFY SYRIA'S POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMANDS WITH THOSE OF THE PLO, ASSAD SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 053936

THIS WOULD GIVE THE PALESTINIANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE REPRESENTED AT ANY EVENTUAL OVER-ALL PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL WITH THE HAK PARTY SAID THE SYRIAN OFFER WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE HELPFUL TO THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INTERIM DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

THE OFFICIAL ALSO DID NOT RULE OUT A SEPARATE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA IN THE FUTURE.

WHILE PUBLIC RHETORIC FROM ASSAD APPEARED HARSH, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL PARTIES EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A POINT OF STATING ONLY THEIR OPENING BARGAINING POSITIONS. THESE POSITIONS ARE LIKELY TO SHIFT AS HAK SHUTTLES BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND ASWAN, THE EGYPTIAN RESORT CITY ON THE UPPER NILE.

TELEVISION

1. ABC EVENING NEWS HAD NOTHING FROM KOPPEL. REASONER SAID: 'SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID TODAY THAT HIS TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE LEFT HIM CONVINCED THAT A SECOND-STAGE MILITARY AGREEMENT IN THE SINAI IS POSSIBLE. HAK INTERRUPTED HIS ME SHUTTLE TALKS TODAY FOR A SIDE TRIP TO TURKEY. HE PLANS TO SPEND 24 HOURS IN ANKARA, HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKISH LEADERS ABOUT THE U. S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY AND THE CYPRUS SITUATION.'

2. NBC EVENING NEWS: NOTHING FROM VALERIANI. CHANCELLOR: 'SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER FLEW FROM ISRAEL TO TURKEY TODAY TO TALK ABOUT CYPRUS. HE HAS NOW BEEN BOTH IN EGYPT AND IN ISRAEL, AND AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FOR TURKEY AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SOURCE PREDICTED THAT THE KISSINGER PEACE MISSION IN THE ME WILL BE LONG AND HARD. THE OFFICIAL ADDED THERE IS NO CERTAINTY, AND POSSIBLY EVEN SOME DOUBT, ABOUT REACHING AN AGREEMENT. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, FOR NOW, EGYPT IS UNWILLING TO MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 053936

A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCE TOWARD ISRAEL, AND SYRIA DOESN'T WANT A SEPARATE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT.'

3. CBS EVENING NEWS: NOTHING FROM KALB. ROGER MUDD: 'SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TURNED HIS ATTENTION TODAY FROM PEACE IN THE ME TO PEACE ON CYPRUS. HE FLEW FROM TEL AVIV TO ANKARA FOR DAY-LONG TALKS WITH TURKISH LEADERS ON RESOLVING THE DISPUTES THAT HAVE DIVIDED CYPRUS. LAST WEEK HE DISCUSSED THE CYPRUS SITUATION WITH THE GREEK FM.' INGERSOLL

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